

**Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting
July 27 and 28, 2000**

Consent Agenda

- Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List
- Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans
- Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund
- First Review of Request to File Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) for Proposed Revisions of the Regulations Governing General Education Development Certificates (8 VAC 20-360)
- First Review of Request to File NOIRA for Proposed Revisions of the Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation (8 VAC 20-70)
- First Review of Proposed Regulations Governing Vocational Education (8 VAC 20-120) and Approval for Public Hearings
- First Review of the Proposed 2001 Meeting Dates for the Board of Education
- First Review of Appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Committee
- Accountability Advisory Committee – Filling of Vacancies

Resolutions and Recognitions

- Resolutions of Appreciation Presented to the Members of the Writing Committees for the English, Mathematics, and Science Standards of Learning (SOL) Resource Guides

Discussion and Action Items

ITEM	ACTION	COMMENTS
First Review of Request to File NOIRA for Proposed Revisions of the Regulations Governing General Education Development Certificates (8 VAC 20-360)	This Consent Agenda item was struck. Action was deferred until the September meeting.	

ITEM	ACTION	COMMENTS
First Review of the Proposed Regulations Governing Vocational Education (8 VAC 20-120) and Approval for Public Hearings	This item was placed on the Consent Agenda and adopted.	
First Review of the Proposed 2001 Meeting Dates for the Board of Education	This item was placed on the Consent Agenda and adopted.	
First Review of Appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Committee	This item was moved to the Consent Agenda and adopted after first review was waived.	<p>The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires the establishment of this advisory committee to advise the Department of Education on the education of children with disabilities. These nominees will be appointed for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2000, to June 30, 2004. The new members are:</p> <p>Dr. David Heddle, parent, Region II; Emily Dreyfus, parent, Region V; Elizabeth Vincel, parent, Region VI; Eileen Deckard, parent, Region VII; Dr. Robert F. Richardson, Jr., local director of special education, Williamsburg-James City County; Sheila Bailey, Department of Correctional Education (representing the state juvenile and adult correction agencies); Barbara Johnston, Grafton Schools (representing private schools); Jennifer Thornburg (representing individuals with a disability); Shirley Ricks, MHMRSAS (representing other state agencies); and Mike Wong, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center</p>

ITEM	ACTION	COMMENTS
<p>Accountability Advisory Committee – Filling of Vacancies</p>	<p>This item was moved to the Consent Agenda and adopted after first review was waived.</p>	<p>(representing transition/vocational education).</p> <p>This committee's charge is to provide input to the Board regarding matters related to accountability and assessment. Members of this committee are appointed for terms of one, two, or three years. The following reappointments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Emblidge, Chairman, Richmond City School Board; • Dr. Gary Jones, Youth for Tomorrow; • Dr. N. Wayne Tripp, Superintendent, Salem City Schools; • Gary Walker, Vice Chair, Charlotte County Board of Supervisors; and • Cheri Pierson Yecke, Deputy Secretary of Education. <p>The following appointments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Glasgow, President, Virginia PTA; • Senator Edward Houck, Senate of Virginia; • Robert A. Royster, Sr., Culpeper School Board and Virginia School Boards Association; • Delegate Terrie Suit, Virginia House of Delegates; • Thomas Shortt, Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals; and • Jean Bankos, Virginia Education Association.

ITEM	ACTION	COMMENTS
Report of the Accountability Advisory Committee	The Board received the report and adopted the recommendations. (Note item #5 was modified in the SOA. The Board also renamed the Basic Diploma, referenced in item #6, to Modified Standard Diploma.)	<p>The Accountability Advisory Committee made the following recommendations that address the proposed Standards of Accreditation and the manner in which these requirements might be adjusted to meet the needs of Virginia's students while maintaining the Board's commitment to high academic standards for all students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expedite re-testing for students taking SOL tests for verified credit; 2. Allow students to substitute other approved tests for the SOL tests; 3. Strengthen the criteria for substitute tests; 4. Strike the waiver provision which allowed local school boards the option of awarding verified credit to students who fail the SOL test but otherwise perform at a high level; 5. Change multiple criteria to multiple assessments; and 6. Limit the Basic Diploma to special education students only.
Final Review of Proposed Revisions to Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia (8 VAC 20-80)	Draft regulations were approved for an additional 30-day public comment period.	The proposed regulations were published in the <i>Virginia Register</i> on January 17, 2000, beginning a public comment period that extended to March 17, 2000. The department received 1,768 comments through six public hearings, e-mail, and mail. The current draft contains proposed changes as a result of public comments.

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Presentation by the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) on the “Keywork of School Boards” Program	The Board received the report and discussed support for the program.	The VSBA presented information on the “Keywork of School Boards,” an initiative of the National School Boards Association and its state affiliates. This program provides an eight-point plan to engage the community in seeking higher student achievement. The VSBA Board of Directors proposed a joint effort with the Board of Education to promote this program.
Final Review of Proposed Revisions of the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, also known as the Standards of Accreditation or SOA (8 VAC 20-131)	The Board amended and adopted the proposed regulations. The final regulations will be published in the <i>Virginia Register</i> .	<p>At its April 26, 2000, meeting, the Board made significant revisions to the first draft of the proposed regulations and released a second draft for public comment. At the July meeting, the Board adopted the regulations with the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed the name of the “Basic Diploma” to “Modified Standard Diploma” and made it available only for students receiving special education and related services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP); (Students who choose a “Modified Standard Diploma” shall also be allowed to pursue the Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma.) • Revised the graduation requirements for verified credits to allow students in ninth grade classes of 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03 to earn the required six verified units of credit by including two in English, and any four additional verified units of credit in courses of the students’ own choosing; (A verified unit of credit for graduation shall be based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction, successful completion of the requirements of the course, and the achievement by the student of a passing score on the end-of-course SOL test for that course or additional tests as described in the SOA regulations.)

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided that students will have the opportunity to have an expedited re-take of an end-of-course SOL test to earn verified credit; • Provided that the Board may approve from time to time multiple additional assessments for the purpose of awarding verified credit; (Additional information regarding substitute assessments may be found on the DOE Web site at: www.pen.k12.va.us.) • Provided that the scores of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students and transfer students will be used in the calculation of a school's accreditation rating if it will benefit the school; • Provided that during the transition years, school years 2000-01 through 2003-04, the required pass rates in third grade and fifth grade science and history/social science shall be calculated using either the grade five scores alone, or the combined pass rates in each of these academic areas, whichever is higher. If the third grade scores are combined with the fifth grade scores, the required passing rate shall be 70%; • Provided that beginning in 2003-04, in third and fifth grades only, the English pass rate shall be 75%. Beginning in 2003-04, the pass rate in third grade science and history/social science shall be 50%; • Provided that during the academic years 1999-2000 through 2003-04, a school will be rated Provisionally Accredited/Meets State Standards when it has met the provisional accreditation benchmarks, but has not met the requirements for Fully Accredited; and • Provided that during the academic years 1999-2000 through 2003-04, a school will be rated Provisionally

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		<p>Accredited/Needs Improvement when it fails to meet the benchmarks within 20 percentage points. Additional information and the full text of the proposed revisions to the SOA may be found at the DOE Web site: www.pen.k12.va.us.</p>
Informational Report on the Educational Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed-Flex).	Action was deferred until the September 2000 Board meeting.	